TRANSCRIPT—SANDRA JACKSON

Interviewee: Sandra Jackon

Interviewer: Ruth Ehrlich

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Abstract: Sandra Jackson discusses family and personal history, community life in Fairview, and changes to the area. Her husband, Frank Edward (Eddie) Jackson, also joins the conversation at 00:19:27.

Ruth Ehrlich: All right, let's get going. Today is March the 18th. I am Ruth Ehrlich and I'm here with Sandra Jackson to interview her for the Fairview History Project. We're excited. Sandra's been doing some volunteer work and she also knows everybody in Fairview I think. So, we're just going to gather Sandra's info and see where we go. So Sandra, to get started, let's just do some basics to get you warmed up. When were you born?

Sandra Jackson: December 1948.

RE: And where were you born?

SJ: Asheville. St. Joseph Hospital.

RE: Was Mission in existence at the time?

SJ: I think so because Eddie... Yeah, Eddie was born there.

RE: And your husband is Eddie?

SJ: Well, it's legally Frank Edward.

RE: Frank Edward, okay. And you have children?

SJ: Yes. Jennifer.

RE: When was she born?

SJ: 1971 in Victorville, California.

RE: Victorville?

SJ: Yep.

RE: Okay.

SJ: And, she's married to Bryan Ward.

RE: Is Bryan from around here?

SJ: Yes. When you get to North Asheville, Weaverville area, you can get the Wards because they've been here as long as us.

RE: Okay. And who else do have?

SJ: James Jackson and he was born in 1974. He's married to Kim Lyons.

RE: Kim?

SJ: Yeah.

RE: L-Y-O-N-S?

SJ: Yes.

RE: L-Y-O-N-S. And where was James born?

SJ: St. Joseph, Asheville.

RE: And tell us where you went to school, Sandra. Did you go to school here?

SJ: Yes, A.C. Reynolds. And while I've got it on my head, let me say this, I have my grandmother... Great-grandmother's obituary and it shows A.C. Reynolds was one of the pallbearers and I think that's cool.

RE: You have your great-grandmother's obituary?

SJ: Yeah, I told you I'm obsessed.

RE: Wow.

SJ: But A.C. Reynolds was one of her pallbearers.

RE: And when did your grandmother die? Do you remember?

SJ: Before I was born. In the middle '40s I think. I've got it written down in there. But...

RE: Did you go to grade school here too?

SJ: No.

RE: What'd you go to grade school?

SJ: Wrightsboro Elementary in Wilmington. When I was five years old, CP&L moved Daddy to Wilmington. When I was 14, they moved him to Goldsboro to train him to come back here. And so, when I was 15, we came back here. And the reason I remember, it was about January or February is because that was when the Beatles were popular. Oh yeah. And, those movers left the TV in the house for me to watch The Beatles.

RE: When you moved back to Fairview?

SJ: No, we moved... It wasn't exactly in Fairview. It was over on Avondale Road. When you cross under the Parkway Bridge, that's where my family's all from is right in there.

RE: Tell me about your work experience.

SJ: I worked... When I was 18, still in school. I started working at Southern Bell. When we moved to California, I worked for the telephone company there. I forgot... Continental Telephone Company I think it was. And then when we came back here, I didn't work at all until James was four and I worked at CP Clare and then I was secretary at Fairview Baptist for a year. Cleaned houses for people for 12 years.

RE: Wow.

SJ: Well, it worked with the kids in school. I could work in the mornings, pick them up in the evenings and had a day with them. I quit that because every joint I had started hurting I think. But, then I worked at J Crew and the call center for 10 years and then they closed that. I got my 10 year pin on a Wednesday and the following Monday they closed the call center.

RE: Wow!

SJ: Yeah. And then, I went down the hill and started working at Guthy-Renker and that's a call center.

RE: Down the hill?

SJ: From J Crew, out on Brevard Road.

RE: And worked where again? I'm sorry.

SJ: It was called Guthy-Renker. They're the ones, if you're on TV and you see advertisements to buy Carol Burnett shows and some of the makeups and stuff like that, the ones where you get it for 19.95 and then three months later you're going to get one that you haven't paid attention and you're going to tell me that I didn't tell you this but I did.

RE: Okay.

SJ: Trust me.

RE: So when you worked in the call centers, you were doing call center... you were taking the calls?

SJ: Yeah.

RE: Oh man, you were on the front lines then.

SJ: Oh yeah. But, you can always pull the mute button back and mouth at them.

RE: Now CP Clare, that's just down the hill. That's the factory, right?

SJ: Yeah, right out the road.

RE: And how long are you at CP Clare?

SJ: Four years. That built this house. Every cent of that money built this house because we built this house in six years. We'd build some, earn some more money and build some more.

RE: And when was your house built?

SJ: '78 to '82.

RE: Okay, super. Now, you were born here in Asheville.

SJ: Uh-huh (affirmative).

RE: You moved to California?

SJ: No, I moved to Wilmington.

RE: Moved in Wilmington. I'm sorry, but...

SJ: North Carolina.

RE: Okay. And then, you came back to this neck of the woods when you were about 15.

SJ: And then, I met Eddie there at Reynolds

RE: You met Eddie at Reynolds High School.

SJ: Uh-huh (affirmative).

RE: He's your high school sweetheart?

SJ: Uh-huh (affirmative). I always had a crush on him. I can remember in, what was it, 10th grade I was swinging my leg and he put his hand out to stop my legs from moving and I just about had a heart attack. Now it wouldn't bother me at all. But, our first date... Oh no, when I was puberty age, my jaw grew crooked. So, if any of my descendants ever hear this, check your kids' jaws at puberty. But anyway, Mom and Dad paid to have my jaw fixed when I was 17. And, I decided that there was nothing I could do about being six foot tall but the jaw was fixed so I just... the kids I liked, I asked them to my house. We had parties. We started having... and I mean just, we weren't the party kind with drinking and all that. We went hiking. It was just fun.

Eddie asked me for our first date in the library at A.C. Reynolds, Ethel Jacobson, who's called Jake, her library, and she still tells everybody that, but our first date was the prom in April of '67. And then we got... In October '67, he went to the Air Force and I was working at Southern Bell and we got engaged when he came home after basic and everything and tech school. And then, he went to Thailand for a year loading bombs. And then when he came home, we got married in June '69 and went to Victorville, California... Well we lived in Adelanto, California, but it's all right there in the Mojave Desert.

RE: And what took you to California?

SJ: US Air Force. George Air Force Base. And, we were there two years, two and a half years. I had to leave from Southern Bell and if Eddie could have gotten an early out and come home in July, I would've probably gone back to Southern Bell but he didn't get to

go home until October and I stayed with him. So, if I'd come on home, we could have, but then I wouldn't have gotten to cross the country either, so...

RE: So, when did you end up coming back to Fairview area? How'd you get back to Fairview?

SJ: When we came back, it was October 1971. We had a big old, I can't remember, Eddie could tell you, Dodge or Chevy truck and we had a Pontiac Tempest that we hooked to the back of it and pulled across country and had it loaded with our stuff in the back of the truck and Jennifer was sitting in the front... Do you remember the car seats back then?

RE: Yes.

SJ: Lousy. And, she stood between my feet half the way across the country. We'd stick beef jerky in that kid's mouth to hush her. And then, we just traveled across country. We got back here. We stayed at Mom and Dad's house there up on... off Avondale. Mom and Dad live on Bee Tree, not Bee Tree, Bee Ridge and that's off of Avondale. We stayed there for about nine months and then we bought a 12 by 52 trailer. Eddie's parents gave us this land and we had the trailer back behind the house here and we lived in that from what, '72 to... well, 10 years. And, we built the house, like I said, while we were living in the trailer. The trailer was basically where the back porch is. It was that close.

RE: So you came back and were on this property in 1972?

SJ: Yeah, I guess it was because we came back here in '71 in October and we did live at Mom and Dad's for a few months till Eddie got a job and his dad gave us the land. We

cleared the land. This was all trees. Wow. So, we had to clear the land and dig the septic and the well and all that and then bring the trailer in.

RE: Did you all do this yourself? Did you all build the house?

SJ: Well, Eddie and his dad cleared the land. I think we had the septic built. I don't remember. Like I said, he could tell you. And, we had a well dug and then we had the house put under roof and then Eddie and his daddy basically did everything else except for the electricity. We paid for that. I think they did the plumbing and then just somebody we know signed it off type thing.

RE: So you've been here since '72, what kind of things have you seen change?

SJ: Everything. It's just like everybody else has said, it's gone from a two-lane road. Eddie says when he was a child you could stand on the two-lane road down there at school and know everybody that passed. You can't now. I mean I wasn't here when it was that way. I came right here in '72 but it's changed. I mean it was a two-lane road and...

RE: Was it paved?

SJ: Oh yeah. Yeah. Yeah, because whenever we were living in Wilmington, Daddy wanted to be here that whole 10, 11 years. So every three weeks, he worked day shift, four to 12 and graveyard and then had four days off every month. Those four days off, guess where we were most of the time. It was right here.

RE: Really?

SJ: We kept that road hot from Wilmington to here.

RE: And what would you do when you'd come back here those four days?

SJ: Stayed with grandmothers. Mom and Daddy stayed with Mama's mother and Deborah and I, my sister, would take turns. One night I'd be at Nanny's and she'd be at Grandmother's and the next night we'd switch.

RE: Now who's Nanny and who's Grandmother?

SJ: Nanny was Mama's mother. She was Ruth Sales Willis, and her family's the one that came here in the late 1700s. And the Willis granddaddy, they met when Nanny was working at the telephone company and she was 20 and he was 16 when they got married. Then, Mom worked at the telephone company and Eddie's daddy worked at the telephone company. My aunt did. The telephone company was it.

RE: Now that was your mama's family?

SJ: That was Mama's family. Her family's the one that's been here forever, of the Sales. The Willises, she was a Willis, I'm not sure. I know they were here a long time, but I don't know when they came because I don't know much about them. Daddy's family was from Haywood County where all the Nolands are. There's a bunch out there because they had a Noland reunion 30 years ago and we got to meet a lot of people. One man looked just like my daddy and he even spelled it differently though.

But, my great-grandfather, all I know is he got mad at somebody and left Haywood County. I don't know what happened or nothing, but he got mad and he ended up here. And my grandmother, I don't know, I know it was around the Azalea area as they call it, around Rec Park. But how long they were there, I don't know either because if you ask

grandmother, her sister Hattie or her sister was Martha but we called her Aunt Marthy, you know the old mountain way. Well Aunt Marthy, the three of them would argue about everything, trying to tell you tales about the family and you'd always get a different one from every one of them. So, I don't really know a whole lot about them.

RE: How did you come to know so many people in Fairview? I mean I feel like you know everybody. I tell you this all the time, I feel like everybody, how did you come to know people?

SJ: Well, just going to high school and living here and the ball games the kids played in, the clogging teams the kids were on, their friends, Eddie knowing a lot of them. We went to Fairview Baptist until Jennifer was 15, then we started going to Emma's Grove Baptist and just meeting them all like that.

RE: Do you still go to Emma's Grove Baptist?

SJ: Yes.

RE: Wow.

SJ: Yeah.

RE: Talk about some of the bigger changes you've seen since you've been back since '72 because that's a long time you've been here.

SJ: Well like I said, just more houses being built, farming land disappearing, the road widening, businesses out here. It was Merrill's store, Tickles, Cedar Cliff and the

Howingtons was there before but I was... I think they weren't there when I came. I don't know. That was about the only stores and the fire department.

RE: The fire department being the Fairview Fair Department...

SJ: Yeah.

RE: ... or the Reynolds Fire Department?

SJ: The Fairview one because I know the Reynolds one wasn't built (like Bud told us) until the late '60s, because I remember my great-uncle letting a fire get out before the Reynolds department was there and Fairview had to come.

RE: Oh, okay.

SJ: Because, I had already met some of the people then through Eddie. And so, I remember that. But, the schools changed, Both of them, Reynolds and Fairview. See, our kids went to the old Fairview school, the same one Eddie did.

RE: The old Fairview School being?

SJ: Just an old two-story building, brick. Just like the area they kept as the community building, that was the gym of the old school and they left it for the community building. But, it was just the typical, what's that, rectangular shaped brick building, two stories. There was a house next door to it where that playground is. I think their names were Teal who lived there. [Beeping.] Oops, turn this thing off. I forgot about that.

RE: That'll get your attention.

SJ: Yeah. Can we hit pause a minute?

RE: Sure.

SJ: Let me get...

Okay.

RE: Okay, let's talk about your... you talked about Eddie's family was here, was your family here in this area too?

SJ: Not right in Fairview. Jamie and them said that Reynolds, the area can still count because Reynolds area doesn't have their library. I guess maybe Oakley more than Fairview. But, if you talk to the doggone newspaper, they say that area's Fairview, which it isn't. Fairview starts at the top of Mine Hole Gap.

Eddie Jackson: Used to, before Reynolds Fire department was built, Fairview took care of the Reynolds area.

SJ: Yeah. And, I've got to be honest and say my daddy's birth certificate, here's Reynolds High School, back up here is Rose Hill Road and that old, where Reynolds Baptist is now, Daddy and Grandmother and all them lived about two, three houses down to the right past that. Well, Daddy's birth certificate says Fairview. My birth certificate 20 years later in that same area says Skyland. It said Skyland. So at that time, I guess that area was called Skyland.

And then if you get the postcards of my great-grandparents right there where Martin's monument is on 74, it said Biltmore. So, the whole area's changed a lot through there. But, people try to say it's Fairview now. It's not. The kids that live there, they really go to Oakley school. I never did because I wasn't here during the Oakley School days.

RE: That's funny.

SJ: I know that's funny.

RE: And Eddie's family lives next door?

SJ: Right.

RE: And have lived there for how long?

EJ: Since 1952 or three, something like that.

RE: Really?

EJ: '53.

RE: For a long, long time.

SJ: Yeah.

RE: Wow.

SJ: Yeah. And like I said, they gave us this land right here. Mom and Dad would've over there but we wanted to come further out here. So we did.

RE: Was the appeal further out here?

SJ: It was further away from the city of Asheville taking over.

EJ: See, she said it was give to us but I helped my dad three or four years clear all this land and helped build a pond so it wasn't free for me.

RE: There's a lot of blood, sweat, and tears going in there.

EJ: That's true.

RE: How were your neighbors otherwise? We've seen a couple of them, haven't we? Mamie and...

SJ: Mamie Sue.

RE: ... Lisa.

SJ: And Lisa, yeah.

RE: Yeah.

SJ: We've had really good neighbors. But let's see, our house, when we first moved here, we were the fifth house on the left. Now, I think we're the 10th.

RE: Really?

SJ: There's two or so houses built plus the double wide and plus a trailer down there I think. It's changed that much. And up the road, these houses back behind us weren't there. You can't see them too well but they're back there. And then...

EJ: Steelwood wasn't there.

SJ: Steelwood wasn't there up the road. And at the very end, I can't think of the name of the road, that's where some Saleses lived up there. The very end to the left.

RE: So is all that up there developed after you all developed here? So all that beyond your house has developed?

SJ: Pretty much except for Mary Lou's house and...

EJ: The house right next door was built the same time that my dad's house was. And, the old big two story white house past that was here before our house was.

SJ: Yeah. And the house, Gary Sales's house up there at the end of the road was there too.

EJ: That two-story white house was here before all of that.

SJ: Uh-huh (affirmative).

RE: Was there farming done around here? Did your family do farming?

SJ: His dad farmed behind the house and Eddie had cows. And, every time those stupid cows would get out was when Eddie was at National Guard. His mother and I chased those cows. Now wait a minute, the last time I chased one, I told that cow he was hamburger and we got rid of them because I was tired of chasing them.

RE: So you and Eddie had cows?

SJ: Yeah, we had cows, but it was down on his daddy's.

RE: So did you make hamburger out of that cow that you had to chase?

SJ: That cow...

EJ: No, I sold them and got rid of them.

SJ: Well, somebody made hamburger out of him.

RE: Was that the only livestock you had was cows?

SJ: When he was a teenager, he had chickens.

EJ: I had some chickens, 25 chickens or something.

SJ: But there's several neighbors now that have got chickens.

RE: Do you buy any of their fresh eggs?

SJ: No, there's a guy at church that brings them and we'll get them from him.

EJ: I don't have chickens anymore.

SJ: But, we had cows and like I said, there's four or five neighbors that have chickens now. And farming, Daddy did it over. He had a huge big field over on our land over there.

EJ: And bees.

SJ: And bees.

RE: And bees?

SJ: Yeah, Daddy and Granddaddy do bees. I can remember once there was a honey bee in the house and I was going to kill it. My daddy got mad at me. He picked that bee up and carried it outside. Saved its life.

RE: Wow! Wow! What about here at this house? Y'all have been here for a long time, you've had your children. One of them was born after you got back here, right?

SJ: Yeah.

RE: Any special memories of your kids and growing up around here?

EJ: Every day. Every day was special.

SJ: We had fun. Those kids were... Jennifer went to school. She had three girls that they became friends and say from kindergarten to fourth grade. And those girls, either she lived there or they lived here and they're still all friends. I mean one of them they don't see as much because she got married say 10 years before they did. So, she didn't hang out with them as much so they kind of drifted apart. But yet, when they're still together, they're still together.

EJ: We used to have 25 or 30 kids here at this house.

SJ: More.

EJ: Yeah, several times a year to support our kids and know where they were at and that sort of thing.

SJ: We've had up to 50 in this house and we're a small house.

RE: 50 kids?

SJ: Teenagers. I swear one night, there was a bunch in James' room and they were watching Pink Floyd I think or listening to them. There was a bunch of boys in the living room listening to Led Zeppelin. Bunch of girls in Jennifer's room just talking. Me and a bunch of the kids were in our bedroom playing Trivial Pursuit and Eddie and several of the girls were in here playing poker.

EJ: Strip poker.

SJ: No, it was not. And then, we had kids outside playing basketball. I mean we just had them everywhere. It was fun.

RE: Was there an occasion that brought them all together or they just gathered here?

SJ: They gathered here.

EJ: They were just good friends.

SJ: They gathered here but Jennifer had a lot of mixed friends, you know what I mean? She was a color guard in the band but yet Kenny Cowan, who lived right back here was a football player. So, she hung out with both crowds. Kenny Cowan, Greg Miller, Robbie Griffin, and Jennifer's boyfriend at the time, Kenny Marshall who lived over on Chunns Cove, all of them rolled this yard. Jennifer had told them if they ever rolled it to do it in colored toilet paper, they did. We were at a game and Eddie was asleep on the couch and he had told them that they would never be able to do it and they were all peeking in the window at him asleep.

EJ: Well I got payback.

RE: What did you do to get payback?

EJ: Well, one of them had a car out here wouldn't start and I took the jumper cables and I hooked it to his car and to my hands and clicked them together and his car started.

SJ: It did really. Scared us to death.

EJ: So, he told me he would never forget me, ever.

SJ: He told us not long ago, that was Jennifer's then-boyfriend, he told us that he tried to do it when his car went dead and his wife wouldn't let him. I said trust me, this wife didn't want him to try it, but he had read it and it worked.

RE: Yeah, I wouldn't have been in favor of that either.

SJ: But anyway, those kids, they would come, like before school started in August, we'd have a bunch of them here. They'd come. We'd just make occasions and they'd come. And, the blizzard came. Oh my gosh, that one, James was a freshman at Brevard and he and another friend were both out on spring break and they all was going to spend the night here. Well, another friend was still a senior in high school. So, I had three teenage boys, one husband and we get snowed in here. Oh, let me tell you. And no power, nothing and then the first night or the second night, we heard a knock on the door and I mean it was blizzard and Lyle, the daddy of one of the boys came in and he couldn't get home. He couldn't get down Emma's Grove Road, so we had him too. It was...

RE: When was this?

SJ: The blizzard of '93.

RE: '93, okay.

SJ: Yeah, and Lyle had walked all the way up the road. He couldn't get up our road so he parked down at the library and walked up. He about went across the field. He got disoriented out there. Scared us to death, I tell you.

RE: Wow. So how long were you housed up with all that crowd?

SJ: With all four of them, about just one night with Lyle and David. And then, we walked down and they managed to get home. But, we had Paul for several more days. And then friends...

EJ: I prayed for sunshine.

RE: I bet you did pray for sunshine.

SJ: But, friends that live over off... well, they lived over off Cane Creek, they had power and they walked up to see how we were and we went back down. They took us to their house because we couldn't get cars up and down this road. You could not. And, they took us to their house and we got showers. And then a few days later, we got power and then Paul's parents, Jim and Louise came over and took showers here because they still didn't have it. So, it was... refrigerator stuff was set out on the back porch in the snow.

RE: Oh, that's a good idea.

SJ: Yeah, we just sat it out there because it was piled up. I've got some blizzard pictures...

RE: Wow.

SJ: ... I'll make copies of.

RE: What is it that you've like most about living in Fairview, Sandra, because you really seem to love it here? What is it that's been so great?

SJ: I don't know, I guess just the people and the family. I don't know, just home.

RE: It's just home.

SJ: Yeah.

RE: Even when you went away, this was home?

SJ: Oh yeah. Oh yeah. I mean I enjoyed California, I loved the Mojave. It didn't like me because you think in a desert you could breathe allergy-wise, but when those Santa Ana winds blow, you can't breathe there either. So, just come back here and not be able to breathe here with the others.

RE: So, was there ever any doubt when you lived elsewhere that you'd come back to Fairview?

SJ: He wanted to go for a little while to British Columbia and homestead when we left the Air Force and, no way.

EJ: But, I'm glad I didn't.

RE: Would you have been up for homesteading?

SJ: Probably, but I didn't want to. I wanted to come home.

EJ: Been too hard of a life.

RE: Yeah, it would have been a hard life.

SJ: Yeah.

RE: Yeah, for sure. Okay, let's see. You said you worked and you didn't work when James was born. You didn't work for 12 years?

SJ: No, Jennifer was born in '71 and I didn't go back to work until '78 when James was four.

RE: So you didn't work for seven years?

SJ: Yeah, I stayed home with them.

RE: What kept you busy during that seven years? I have no children, so you...

SJ: I can tell you don't with that question. I was just busy taking care of kids. I mean, I don't really remember. That was a long time ago. They're 48 and 45 almost now. But, taking care of kids. I mean we went places, did things and stuff like that.

RE: Yeah. Yeah, I'm sure.

SJ: Just the kids.

RE: Yeah. What do most people around here do for a living, or what did they do? Did they work at factories? Did they drive into town? What'd they do?

EJ: I worked at the Veterans' Administration.

RE: Doing?

EJ: Worked in property management or supply division. I worked there for 43 years and I was also in the Army National Guard for a while. And then, I retired out of the North Carolina Air National Guard. About 29 years there but that was a part-time job.

RE: Wow. Do most of your neighbors go into the city to work?

SJ: Back... I was just thinking, years ago, Grandmother and Granddaddy and Daddy all worked at Beacon.

RE: And Beacon was where?

SJ: Swannanoa.

RE: Swannanoa.

SJ: And, Daddy then got the job at CP&L and that's when we moved. But, Beacon was a big one. Sayles Biltmore Bleachery. A lot of people worked there. My aunt worked there.

EJ: Sandra worked at J. Crew and what was that other one?

SJ: Well, I told her J. Crew and all that. When we were younger and it was a lot more factory jobs here then and people in farming. It wasn't like it is now where all the rich people are coming in buying up the land and you can't afford to live here if you've grown up here. I don't know what they're going to do when they afford the poorer people out. What they're going to do to have things taken care of. I just don't know.

RE: Is there a lot of the property being sold around here? I don't see a lot of it when I'm driving. I don't see a lot of property for sale. Is there a lot of property for sale around here?

SJ: In Fairview?

RE: In Fairview.

SJ: I have a friend who's... well she's a year or two older than Jennifer, but she's in Japan right now. Her husband, they've lived all over the world but she said that she's looking for land here, for two acres and she said just about they'd have two acres with a house that they can afford, it's bought in one day. So, I mean things are selling fast around here.

EJ: Oh, you just go... I can drive down the road any day and you can see realtor signs. It's just a matter of them deserving it.

SJ: Yeah, they're out there.

RE: Maybe I just don't see so much of it or I don't have the sense of it, but I don't have that history that you do.

SJ: I mean what will happen to all this someday when his mama's gone? Who knows.

RE: Do you think you'll hold onto it when your mama goes?

EJ: I'd be afraid to say right now.

RE: How much property does your whole family have here?

EJ: I'm not sure about that.

SJ: I really don't know either. Daddy and Mama had about 10 acres between Rose Hill and Hemphill Road. But see, that comes from Mama's side of the family, the Saleses. That land did. No, that land came through Granddaddy. The Hemphill Road was through the Saleses. But, the Bee Ridge is from Granddaddy.

RE: Now is this the Sales of Bud Sales, that group?

SJ: We're kin to them, yeah.

RE: So, you're related to Bud Sales?

SJ: Yeah, I think I...

RE: See, not only do you know them, you're related to them.

SJ: If it's the name Sales in them, I'm related to them. I think Bud's like my fifth or seventh, I can't remember, cousin.

EJ: Sales and Millers and who else was the big families then?

SJ: Sales and Millers are the ones kin to me but there's... In Fairview, it's Sales, Millers, Owenbys, Lannings, Wrights, Marlows, all those.

RE: Is there anybody in particular who kind of stands out when you think about your tenure here in Fairview that you just think about experiences? Somebody like we talked to Mamie Sue, but is there anybody that just stands out that you just... they're special to you some way?

SJ: No, I like everybody. I mean Mamie Sue of course. She went to see Grummie the other day.

RE: Did she?

SJ: And, Mamie Sue just turned 95 yesterday.

RE: And went out visiting?

SJ: Well, the day before she did.

RE: Wow.

SJ: And of course his family, they're pretty good people.

EJ: We were a small number.

SJ: Yeah, you were a small number. His family were more from Henderson and Rutherford County.

RE: Do y'all do a lot of family gatherings now?

SJ: My family does more than his. The Jacksons, a lot of them are either gone. They are gone except for one aunt by marriage and all their kids are spread out everywhere. And the Normans, the same way from his side.

EJ: All of my family's in jail.

SJ: Oh, this is being recorded, you know that.

EJ: I know. You've got to tell the truth though.

SJ: Well, yeah, and you're lying to beat the band.

RE: So, what do you do for fun? What have you done for fun through the years and what do you do for fun now here in Fairview?

SJ: Well me, I like to go hiking and waterfalls and stuff like that. And then, I don't know, church stuff. A lot of our activities social wise is church and get togethers there. If there's a yard sale anywhere, I'll go to it. Have you ever been to that Sale on the Trail through Chimney Rock? It's usually about April. You ought to watch for it and go to that. It's fun. Sale on the Trail, I think it's called, through Chimney Rock and Lake Lure and all that. We like to do that.

RE: So how long have you been a member of Emma Grove Baptist? Do you remember?

SJ: Emmas Grove.

RE: Emmas Grove.

SJ: Since Jennifer was 15 and she's 48, so what's that?

RE: Wow. So, a long while.

SJ: 33.

RE: Wow, a long while. Wow. Yeah.

SJ: But now my family helped start Gashes Creek.

RE: Oh really? Tell me about that.

SJ: Well I don't know, I wasn't there but I know they started it, helped start it. One of the founding members because see that was right there near... That's near it. And so, they helped start that. And if you go, all of my grandparents, all my great-grandparents are buried at Gashes Creek. Daddy's there. Mama will be there.

RE: At Gashes Creek?

SJ: At Gashes Creek. Oh no, I take that back, three sets of my great-grandparents are there. One set is that that little church across from the library in Arden near TC Robertson. The Willis ones are right out there. But the Nolands, the Bartletts and the Sales are all at Gashes Creek. And, there's one great great-grandmother at Gashes Creek.

RE: So there's still burying people at Gashes Creek?

SJ: Well, Mama will be, yeah. It's up to the top of the line pretty much. I don't know if they'll get many more than that, but...

RE: How about that? That's interesting.

SJ: Yeah, Daddy's up near the very top and his uncle and then my grandparents are down here and the others are down here.

RE: I've got a question here and I've not heard anybody talk about this, the Fairview Community Fair. Do you know anything about the Fairview Community Fair? I don't remember anybody say that so I was just curious.

SJ: Not unless it's something through the school since my kids were no longer at Fairview. They used to have a harvest festival or something when the kids were little.

RE: This is the first time I just happened to notice that. Are there a lot of a variety of faiths around here that you've seen or are they pretty much all Christian or Protestant?

SJ: Well, I don't know. I guess now with newer people moving in it's probably changed but used to it was pretty much Baptist. But, I'm trying to think. I don't know. I just... Baptist and Methodist pretty much all I know. Now this past weekend, I went to one at Christ Community Church, a retreat. I told them if I ever decided to become Presbyterian I was going around the mountain to Montreat to that place because that one's a good one.

RE: Well now tell me about Emma's Grove. What do they do in terms of social activities? You said a lot of their social activities or a lot of your social activities were around church, what kind of things do they do?

SJ: Well, just some Sunday nights you just... about two or three weeks ago we went in and three of the women have a little group and so they sang songs and we eat. We're Baptist, you eat. And, just get-togethers, cooking. And, some preachers have had ice

cream socials at the parsonage. It just depends on who the preacher is and whether they want a ton of people swarming on their house or having it at the church.

RE: Has Emma's Groves ever done the dinner on the ground or any of those kind of things? Homecomings? They do...

SJ: Uh-huh (affirmative). We do homecomings fourth Sunday of August.

RE: Every year?

SJ: Uh-huh (affirmative).

RE: Pretty well attended?

SJ: Oh yeah. We used to be out on the yard, but when we built that building, we have it in there now.

RE: Do you remember dinners on the ground?

SJ: Oh yeah. Yeah, and at Fairview too when we went there. Because Eddie, like I said, grew up going to Fairview Baptist. I can remember, like I told you, in the summers, we came up here particularly a lot. So, I've gone to plenty of Bible Schools at Gashes Creek too. I'd go to Bible School in Wilmington, come up here and go to Bible School. The ninth grade is when we moved back here. That's the only year of my life I never missed a day of school. And, we came back to Asheville and they had missed some, so I had to make up days. So, I went to school more than [inaudible] on that year.

RE: That's too good. That's too good. You talked about the stores that were in Asheville, I mean excuse me, in Fairview and we've kind of heard about some of those from other folks, but did you have reason when you first came here to go into Asheville very often?

SJ: Well, we did. I'm trying to think. The mall, I hadn't even thought of that.

EJ: We used to go to Sears and Roebucks on Cox Avenue.

SJ: Yeah, we went there.

EJ: Didn't go to town.

SJ: And, the JC Penney downtown and Woolworths and Kress's. My mama's first job was at Woolworths.

RE: Really?

SJ: And, I've got the desk in there that she bought with her first money. His momma's first job was at Kress's. And, they both worked at the telephone company, but they were not at the same time because his mother's a few years older. And let's see, then downtown kind of went caput. And then, the mall is where we'd go a lot. And then, the town started attracting people again.

RE: So did you go... you had to go into Asheville to buy clothing if you needed clothing or were there stores around here that you could do that or you made it?

SJ: Okay, now listen, remember I'm six foot tall. So at that time, I never have been able to go into a store and buy clothes. Back then, either Mama made them or I made them for

me. But for the kids, yeah, to go into town and do that. But for myself, it was always homemade until Eddie Bauer started making talls.

RE: Well, where did you go to buy groceries, that kind of thing, and sundries?

SJ: There was a Bi-Lo on Swannanoa River Road where we did a lot of shopping.

RE: Wow. Okay.

SJ: And that was mainly the place we got our groceries, right?

EJ: There used to be several A&P stores and Winn-Dixie stores.

SJ: Yeah. Oh, and Winn-Dixie up there where Kmart... Well, Kmart's not there now either, but Winn-Dixie up there across from the mall. How's that?

RE: You talk about Martin Monument. I have no idea where Martin Monument is.

SJ: Yes you do. When you're coming through 74, right there where they're selling the gravestones.

RE: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SJ: That's Martin's Monument.

RE: Oh, it's not a monument like recognizing monument?

SJ: No, it's not a monument. No.

RE: Oh, it's not recognizing something that happened. It's the monument place.

SJ: Right.

RE: Oh, okay.

SJ: Right.

RE: The one...

SJ: If you're going towards town, it's on the right.

RE: Right.

SJ: And right next to that is where my great-grandparents' house was.

RE: Oh, so it's actually that monument place where they do headstones.

SJ: Right.

RE: I've always thought it was a monument recognizing something.

SJ: No, No. And what I was going to say too, what I think is neat is our son's a fireman at Station One downtown. His great-uncle, which would be my uncle, was a fireman there and my great-uncle was a fireman there. And, my great-grandfather was on the first police force. If you ever see the book, what's her name, Mitzi Tessier, there's a book that she wrote and it has a picture of the first police department and my great-grandfather's in that.

RE: How about that.

SJ: That's the one I showed you awhile ago holding the tobacco leaf. And I found out later, he was something to do on the school board because he evidently signed school board checks too. And the great-grandmother, Mama's grandmother was a Daughters of

the Confederacy. And like I said, for her to have A.C. Reynolds, the Sheriff and all these people that are pallbearers, she had to have been a force to reckon with in the community. I'm like, oh wow, that's cool.

RE: Sounds like it might have been connected.

SJ: Uh-huh (affirmative). Yeah, they might have been poor as you can see from that picture but they...

RE: They knew people, huh?

SJ: Right, and they were part of it.

RE: Yeah. Yeah, cool. Do you feel like your safe in Fairview? Do you feel like your safety or security level has changed in the years that you've been here? Do you still... Do you lock your doors?

SJ: Oh yeah.

RE: Did you used to lock your doors?

SJ: No.

RE: Why did you start locking your doors?

SJ: Because of reading the newspaper and watching TV.

RE: But nothing happened?

SJ: Nothing's happened here. Now Mama's house was broken into.

RE: Really?

SJ: Yep. They didn't take much, but they got a broken camera and I thought good for you, buds. They didn't take much at her house, so it had to have been teenagers looking for quick stuff to get out is what we figure.

RE: Is that when you started locking your doors?

SJ: No, I've locked them before then. I'm a paranoid person.

RE: Are you?

SJ: I lock them.

RE: Have there been any major events like fires, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, anything like that come through here that you can remember or it impacted Fairview in any way or in the neighborhood?

SJ: Well, Judith [Robertson] goes out with Tealey [Ellis] to do these interviews, she asked me, because they interviewed Jeter and Laura Lewis and they mentioned the flood. There was a flood in '73 and somebody died. I don't remember who or nothing like that. But, Eddie and I were in... we'd gone to New Orleans or Gulfport, Mississippi to see his sister and when we came back up through Atlanta and all through there, there were storms everywhere. So, it was flooding here then. I do know that.

RE: But you all were not impacted by that?

SJ: No, we saw it coming up from Georgia and South Carolina and all that. But, Judith did. She asked me. I found it finally in the newspaper columns and sent it to her. I couldn't open the newspaper article because we're not a... we don't get the newspaper so

you couldn't open that up. But, I found it. So, she was going to look it up. That's the one. Is there anything else? Oh, after that Hurricane Ivan, we had trees down everywhere because I found that picture the other night too, all the trees down in the yard.

RE: Wow.

SJ: That was a hurricane. Anything that comes up from the south through Gulfport and the Gulf, we get it.

RE: Right. But with where you're located, you still get the wind and that kind of thing?

SJ: Oh yeah.

RE: I mean you feel it here.

SJ: Yeah.

RE: On your property. But with flooding, I wouldn't think would be a problem for you, would it?

SJ: No, not really. Not really.

RE: But, do you have water that washes down off the mountain and comes down through here? Is that a problem?

SJ: We get water off the road, but that's the only thing.

RE: Anything else you can think of?

SJ: Can you think of anything, Eddie?

EJ: No.

SJ: I can't think of anything right now.

RE: Well, you go to the Community Table.

SJ: Oh yeah, I love that.

RE: Tell me about the Community Table a little bit as the last thing.

SJ: When are you coming?

RE: I'm going to come someday.

SJ: They used to do the Welcome Table every week.

RE: Welcome Table.

SJ: But now, they do it once a month. The second Thursday, you can come to that. And it's Barbara Trombatore, is that how you say her name, used to be in charge of it. She's no longer in charge but the ladies are doing it. They're doing it good too. It's really good food and it's fun.

RE: Tell me about the Welcome Table. As a newcomer, tell me about it.

SJ: Well, I think they started it just as a way to help the community meet people and to be together and learn about the community and everything. You just go down there and they've got salads and desserts and the main section and they usually say a prayer because they don't accept government funds and all this. They do everything they can to keep it local. It's just a whole lot of fun. We've met people that we wouldn't normally have met and are friends with them. It's a different crowd, right Eddie? They're all diverse.

RE: Where is this that it meets?

SJ: Right down at the foot of our road at that little church. I can't think of the name of it. It's that little Presbyterian church, the log cabin...

EJ: Right beside the library.

SJ: Right beside the library. If you park in the library parking lot, you can walk up to the church. It's the log cabin.

RE: And how long has that been going on, do you know? The Welcome Table.

SJ: I really don't know, seven, eight, nine, 10 years. From seven to 10 years.

RE: I think that seems to make Fairview somewhat unique, that there's that interest in bringing the community together some way.

SJ: Right.

RE: I think that's one of the things that is just so cool about Fairview and that sense of community and how do you get to know. Do you find newcomers come to the Welcome Table?

SJ: Yeah, they do. But since they quit doing it once a week, it has slacked up a little bit because people can't remember second Thursday. I mean they send out emails, but by then you already have something planned for the second Thursday sometimes. But, they had more the other day than they did last month.

RE: And what time is it?

SJ: Well, we go around 11:30. It's like 11:30 to 1:00. We started going at 11:30 because our moms used to go and we'd get there early just so they could park at the door. And, that's just when all of us go now. We all sit at the same table.

RE: Have you done any volunteer work with the Welcome Table?

SJ: No, because I never know when we're going to have to go do something with moms or when our son's going to call and say "Go pick up Blake."

RE: Yeah, that's cool. That's cool. I think that's one of the neatest things that I've heard about and I keep swearing I'm going to go, but I haven't.

SJ: I know. I know. I think you should.

RE: All right. Anything else?

SJ: I can't think of anything. I'll think of stuff after you're gone.

RE: Well, that's okay. We'll just tell them that if they have any questions they can call you because you know everybody.

SJ: No, I don't know everybody.

RE: I think you do.

SJ: There's some people that know more than me.

RE: I think you do know everybody. I think it's amazing. All right, well thank you so much.

SJ: Well see, I don't mind talking either.

RE: I know. Cool. Stop.

SJ: All right, stop.

END OF INTERVIEW.

GREENWOOD
THOMPSON
PRITT

92 7 30

LYDA
HIP

93 3 12

BP
Regular Self 109.9
Plus Self 119.9
93 3 12

93 3 13